

What Patients Should Know About the Zika Virus: A Certified Nurse-Midwife, Nurse Practitioner and Epidemiology Collaboration.

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Purpose

To highlight collaborative efforts of the DNP prepared nurse through identification of inter and intra-professional teamwork to educate and share information with healthcare providers, patients, families, communities and populations about the Zika virus.

Background

According to the CDC (2016), the Zika virus was first discovered in 1947. The virus is named after the Zika Forest in Uganda. The first human cases of Zika were detected in 1952. Zika virus spreads to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus)

Zika virus can also spread:

- During sex with a partner infected with Zika virus.
- From a pregnant woman to her fetus during pregnancy or around the time of birth.
- Through blood transfusion (likely, but not confirmed).

The virus is achieving pandemic status in several countries and is now threatening the United States.

Reported Active Transmission- All Countries & Territories with active Zika virus transmission (CDC, 2016)



Zika virus disease in the United States, 2015–2016 (CDC, 2016)

- US States: Travel associated cases (N=935)
- US Territories: Locally Acquired cases (N = 2,020)
- US Virgin Islands (N=21) Somos (N=29) Puerto Rico (N= 1970)



Interdisciplinary Collaboration



Team Huddles

Originated to help health care teams increase communication, review past and current history , plan for ongoing health care and prevent adverse outcomes.

Results:

- Brief and frequent meetings
- Improved communication
- Reveal potential risks
- Increase patient safety
- Work towards a common goal
- Increase trust and mutual respect
- Decrease adverse outcomes



Collaborative Huddle for Emerging Information: Zika Virus

Zika Virus – Updates (Team)

- Partnership – Primary Care/Specialty Care
- Consultant – Epidemiologist (Zika Virus)
- Scheduled – Quarterly Team Meetings
 - Concerns from new/publicized information
 - Brief (15-30 minutes)
 - Prepared questions
- Plan for Dissemination
 - Patient/Family/Community
 - Other health care providers/systems

Impact

Frequently Asked Questions – Patients/Family/Community

- Mode of Transmission
- Signs and Symptoms of Zika Virus
- Signs and Symptoms of Guillain-Barre
- Teratogenicity
- Gestational Age and Teratogenicity
- Contagion
- Treatment
- Lab Testing
- Prevention
- Travel Plans
- Microcephaly

Frequently Asked Questions - Health Care Providers

- Up-to date information
- Guidelines
- Diagnosis
- Treatments/Palliative Care
- Modes of Transmission
- On-going research and results



Conclusions

- Zika virus outbreak declared a Public Health Emergence of International Concern (PHEI)
- The CDC has elevated its response efforts to a Level 1 activation.
- Collaborative action by healthcare providers is essential to combat the devastating effects of the Zika virus.

Implications for Practice

- Interdisciplinary Expertise
- Ongoing Communication
- Up-to-date facts in an emerging health care scenario
- Increased Quality
- Increased Accountability
- Patient Awareness
- Dissemination to health care organization
- Culture of Collaboration

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